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Christa Dean/STB
01/25/2005 05:35 PM

To steve@arkansasheritage.org
cc mcfarland@aol.com
bcc
Subject AHPP Tracking No. 53255

Dear Mr. Imhoff,

We spoke earlier today, and I am writing in regard to Delta Southern Railroad Inc.'s proposed abandonment of a rail line located between milepost 433.0 near Lake Village, Arkansas, and milepost 463.0 near Shelburn, Louisiana. [STB Docket No. AB-384 (Sub-No. 1X)].

In your December 29, 2004 letter to the Surface Transportation Board, you indicate that the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has requested location maps from the railroad but has not yet received a reply. In this proceeding, an Offer of Financial Assistance (OFA) has been made to purchase the entire line. Under the financial assistance program, any financially responsible person may acquire the line to provide continued rail service or may temporarily subsidize continued operations by the incumbent railroad. Accordingly, authorization of the abandonment has been postponed to permit the OFA process under 49 U.S.C. 10904 and 49 CFR 1152.27 to proceed. The railroad has indicated that it has not forwarded the requested materials to your office, because it is awaiting the outcome of the OFA.

If no agreement is reached concerning the rail line, the Board will serve a decision allowing the abandonment exemption to become effective, subject to possible imposition of conditions (for example, historic preservation and/or environmental conditions). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 565-1606.

Thank you,
Christa Dean

Christa L. Dean, Attorney Adviser
Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
202.565.1606